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# APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS AND REQUESTS FOR RECLASSIFICATION RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

## Letter dated 14 February 1992 from the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the Chairman of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

By its resolution 45/6 of 16 October 1990, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided "to invite the International Committee of the Red Cross to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer", thus taking into account "the special role carried on accordingly by the International Committee of the Red Cross in international humanitarian relations".

In the light of this new observer status, which reflects more accurately the sui generis character of our institution, I feel that the previous consultative status of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with the Economic and Social Council has become somewhat inappropriate. I should therefore like to confirm what our representative in New York, Mr. Jean-Paul Fallet, conveyed to you verbally, namely our desire to withdraw from our non-governmental organization status with the Economic and Social Council.

In so doing, ICRC wishes above all to avoid any confusion within the community of non-governmental organizations and the various offices of the United Nations Secretariat which might otherwise arise.

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* E/C.2/1993/1.

This decision should, however, in no way be interpreted as a lack of interest in non-governmental organizations - quite the contrary: with the increasing awareness of the necessity of cooperation among United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and ICRC, all our links and contacts of the past will continue and probably increase, and I do assure you that ICRC will continue to cooperate to the fullest possible extent in the future.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the support which ICRC and, in particular, our delegation in New York have always received from the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit of the Secretariat, and I am particularly grateful to you for all your personal commitment and involvement in the humanitarian field.

(Signed) Cornelio SOMMARUGA

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